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in diameter, the old leaves hanging perpendicularly and forming a peculiar thatch around the trunk and extending to the ground.

The century-plant is in Chihuahua represented by a variety with shorter and broader leaves than that commonly cultivated. From the centre of the tuft, the flower-stalk rises from 10 to 25 feet in height, composed of woody tissue and standing some years after bearing flowers. These persistent flower-stalks, crowning the ridges and visible for miles, give a peculiar aspect to the scenery. The century-plants are, however, nowhere as numerous as the species of *Dasylirion*, with which they are associated, and which do not die with the effort of floescence. Further south, the agave supplies from its sweet juice the material from which an intoxicating drink is produced. In this region, however, an alcoholic beverage is obtained from the "sotol" (*Dasylirion Texanum*), which, from its abundance and the use made of it, deserves a prominent place among the economical plants of the country. Hundreds of thousands of acres are covered with this sotol, and it would seem that it might be much more largely utilized than it is for the manufacture of alcohol. The leaves are three to three and a half feet long by one a half inches wide at the base, straight, flat, and garnished on either side with strong recurved hooks. The color is yellow-green, and the leaves are very numerous. From the centre rises, at a certain stage of growth, a woody flower-stalk, ten feet high and at the base as large as one's arm. The trunk rises but a few inches above the ground and is completely concealed. The top of this trunk, composed of the closely imbricated leaf-bases, which are broad, yellow, shining, succulent and sweet, with a pulpy mass at the centre, containing much saccharine matter, raw, or better roasted, is palatable and nutritious; so much so, that in the country where it grows it is said the Indians never really suffer for want of food, as this affords them an abundant if not varied aliment.

In the preparation of sotol whisky—a liquid called *mescal*, as is also that made further west from other plants—the portion of the plant which has been described is trimmed so as to resemble a head of cabbage, then roasted and fermented, the product of the vinous fermentation being distilled in the ordinary way. For roasting the sotol, a pit is dug, some ten feet in diameter and four feet deep, lined with rude masonry. In this a fire is built, and when it has been burned down, the pit is filled with several hundred sotol heads. When roasted, they are chopped in pieces and fermented in vats.

Another interesting plant, the companion of the sotol, is the "lechuguilla" (*Agave heterocantha*), of which the leaves furnish a strong fibre, universally employed for ropes, sacks, etc., in Northern Mexico. This grows on the mountain slopes, generally at an elevation of about 4,000 to 5,000 feet, is common in all Northern Chihuahua, and especially abundant on the Chinati Mountains in Texas.

The Syracuse Botanical Club.—We are informed that, owing to ill health, Mrs. Grifford has been obliged to resign the position of Corresponding Secretary of the Syracuse Botanical Club, and that Mrs. S. M. Rush has been elected to fill the vacancy.